

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 5, please delete the fourth paragraph and replace as follows:

[0021] Geneware[™] GENEWARE viral vector – As used herein, Geneware[™] GENEWARE viral vector refers to a system for expressing genes in plants, such as described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,316,931; 5,589,367; 5,811,653 and 5,866,785, all incorporated herein by reference.

On page 10, please delete the second paragraph and replace as follows:

[0049] Seven accessions of *N. excelsior* were collected. All of the accessions had similar characteristics, but only TW46 and TW47 were determined to be good hosts for GFP Geneware[™] GENEWARE viral vector. TW46 was identified as a poor host for certain insert genes in Geneware[™] GENEWARE viral vector. Since systemic necrosis was observed in TW46, TW47 was selected. A group of over 100 *N. excelsior* TW47 were inoculated to give a statistically valid survey of the performance of GFP Geneware[™] GENEWARE viral vector on *N. excelsior*. Almost all of the plants gave good-to-excellent systemic GFP expression. A virus preparation from 200 grams of infected whole plants gave a final yield of 2 mg virion/g fresh weight. Unexpectedly this was 5- to 10-fold higher than the virion yield typically obtained from tobacco with CP-fusion constructs. The higher virion yield for *N. excelsior* when extended to the field, the yield per acre would be similar to tobacco, but the amount of tissue (waste) in the bioprocessing stream is greatly reduced. Typical results for *N. benthamiana* are 0.9 mg virion/g fresh weight.

On page 10, please delete the third paragraph and replace as follows:

[0050] Seven accessions of *N. benthamiana* were screened for biomass and as a host for systemic expression from dual-subgenomic Geneware[™] GENEWARE viral vector. One of the best performers was TW16.

On page 10, please delete the last paragraph and replace as follows (note paragraph continues onto top of page 11).

[0051] A primary interspecific hybrid between *N. excelsior* TW47 and *N. benthamiana* TW16 gave very good systemic GFP expression with GFP Geneware[™]

GENEWARE viral vector. Midvein regeneration was performed to stimulate chromosome-doubling and restoration of fertility (References: Campbell et al., Theor Appl Genet 87 (1994) 837-842; Kasperbauer and Collins, Crop Sci 12 (1972) 98-101). TW47 and TW16 Accessions were each obtained from the USDA Tobacco Germplasm Collection in Oxford, NC. Currently this collection is curated by Verne A. Sisson, Department of Crop Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina 27695 (Phone: 919/693/5151, extension 228).

On page 11, please delete the first paragraph and replace as follows:

[0052] Several regenerants set seed indicating chromosome-doubling and restored fertility. The working name for the hybrid species is *N. excelsiana*. The seed was germinated, and the resulting plants were evaluated for biomass and systemic ~~Geneware~~TM GENEWARE viral vector expression. Systemic GFP expression was near the level of *N. benthamiana*. Biomass and growth habit were similar to *N. excelsior*.

On page 11, please delete the third paragraph and replace as follows:

[0054] The primary chromosome-doubled hybrid between *N. excelsior* and *N. benthamiana* (*N. excelsiana*) appears to be a stable true-breeding line. It has good biomass and excellent ~~GENEWARE~~TM GENEWARE viral vector properties, and did well in a test in Kentucky.